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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CHIP IN TO HELP KIDS

(SACRAMENTO) The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has partnered with Shriners Hospitals for Children in the "CHiP In To Help Kids" program. To help kick off the program, CHiPper, the CHP's lovable mascot will make a 3 p.m. appearance at today's Valentine's Day party that Shriners Hospital in Sacramento is hosting for the children.

The "CHiP In To Help Kids" program provides the CHP with the opportunity to inform the public about the free medical services offered to children with the following conditions: severe burns, spinal cord injuries and orthopedic needs.

"Shriners is a great organization, and the CHP is more than happy to help out," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown.

Last year more than 1,100 children were severely injured in automobile collisions in California. In 2004 more than 2,000 children suffered from severe crash-related injuries.

"It's unfortunate, but our officers see first-hand the severe injuries and burns some children are left to recover from after a horrible crash," said Commissioner Brown. "That's why we've agreed to spread the word about the excellent medical care available to children at Shriners Hospitals."

There are two Shriners Hospitals for Children in California. Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles specializes in Orthopedic Care, while Shriners Hospital in Sacramento specializes in Orthopedic & Burn Care. Since 1922, Shriners Hospitals have been helping children free of charge. Admission to Shriners Hospital is based on medical need.

Brochures and informational cards detailing the program are available at all 102 area CHP offices. For more information visit the CHP website at www.chp.ca.gov.